

MRS Meeting
Eastern Counties
Wilson Co DSS
December 6, 2004

Attendees:

State Staff: Tony Troop, Gale Trevathyan, Gwen Byrns, Susan Moss, Tony Amos, Diane Chavis, Kim, Jeff Olson, Heather Thomas.

Counties: Brunswick, Caswell, Currituck, Duplin, Durham, Halifax, Harnett, New Hanover, Pamlico, Scotland, Wake, Warren, Wilson.

Agenda:

Introduction

Division Updates (Dear County & Admin Letters)

Policy Issues

Future Meetings the need to meet everyone's needs/non MRS counties

Power Point Presentation

Issues Identified for discussion (Memorandum of Agreement how to you do them, what do you call workers now (not investigators), who are you using as facilitators, who is providing services for Services Recommended what code is used?)

Division Updates – Letters/ Policy Updates

- Letters have come out regarding: staffing, Work First check insert, training calendar, family foster homes, new adoption form, Work First manual change, 12/1 manual change.
- Policy to come out soon 1205 foster care funding and new meth (and drug affected children) policy to go to Children's Services Committee this week.
- Domestic Violence training Trainers have been interviewed
- Structured Decision Making being piloted to counties, going to Children's Services next month
- Day Care Policy being changed

Policy Issues

- Guardian ad litem Tony attended one of their meetings
 - They say they are not being invited to the Child and Family Team Meetings that are taking the place of the PPAT meetings.
 - They would like to be invited to all CFT meetings, but they **must** be invited if the meeting is taking the place of PPAT.
 - Some of the GAL's reported that county staff told them that with MRS there would eventually be no more kids coming into custody and no need for GAL's this is completely untrue
 - Note that the entry rate into foster care has not decreased in any state doing MRS, only the re-entry rate and length of stay has decreased.

- Intake Screening and Assignment
 - Social workers have come to training sessions and reported that cases are being taken as Family Assessment that involve broken bones or sex abuse
 - Need to stress that if it is an abuse allegation, it **cannot** be assigned Family Assessment
 - Need to practice good intake (not all broken bones are abuse) and then assign correctly.

PowerPoint

- Talks about where we want to go in the next couple of years and how we plan to get there.
- If anyone would like a copy of this, let Tony know.

Items of other discussion

- 5104 being revised one of the changes is a new assigned Services Provided protective services no longer needed to capture frontloading of services.
- Opening the Central Registry to other people (appeals process) there is no statewide appeals process. Currently can only go to the county Director and they can overturn a finding.

Plans for MRS Statewide

- Have submitted a proposal to DHHS will involve General Assembly changing all CPS laws (from investigate to assess) but that will open up all these laws to scrutiny.
 - Division may ask some MRS counties to talk to General Assembly.
- Training want to meet all the needs of the 52 by 6/30/05. In order to do this we will provide more training.
 - The 52 will be priority until 7/1/05 when the remaining 48 will be given priority.
 - Will start a program to mentor and coach facilitators.
 - Start web-based training.
- Evaluation Duke conducting in depth evaluation, record reviews etc.
 - DIRM on-line evaluation rolling out in Spring 05.
- Child and Family Services Reviews counties will be scored on traditional child welfare policy, not MRS policy. If they see a discrepancy between MRS policy and practice they will consult with the county on it, but will not be dinged .
 - If the CFS review team feels that a county made the wrong finding (Ex: County found Services not needed , Review Team felt it should have been Services Needed) they have to be able to cite what safety issue was the problem.
- *Must begin assigning cases Family Assessment*
 - The Division cannot go to the General Assembly and ask for more money for MRS if all 52 of the current MRS counties are not doing Family Assessment. So the message from the Division is that all counties need to start assigning cases Family Assessment now. If there are specific difficulties, Tony will make a site visit for assistance.

Where are counties in implementation?

- Have you begun assigning Family Assessment?
 - Are you assigning FA countywide for neglect?
 - In home services?
 - Keeping or transferring cases?
 - If they are transferred, how is this managed?
 - How do workers let cases go staffing
- New Hanover asked for discussion about keeping cases they have workers with cases 60 days old that have not been transferred.
 - Durham and Wake (similar in size to New Hanover) talked about their methods of staffing
 - Tony mentioned that it helps to have case management people as a part of staffings. Most of the original 10 have team staffing.
- For 215 how many do team staffing?
 - Warren weekly (blended teams, about 2 hrs)
 - Wilson weekly (blended teams, 4+ hrs)
 - Pamlico - daily
- In home services are basically the old case planning/case management
- According to Tony's latest pull from Data Warehouse, Duplin, Halifax, Scotland, and Warren have not assigned Family Assessment yet.
 - Asked about the barriers?
 - Warren how to deal with on call? Some counties have chosen to have the on call cases all be forensic rather than Family Assessment.
- Discussion around having meetings by experience, or by size, also about how best to include non-MRS counties.
 - Will have 3 meetings, East, West, and Central, but any county can come to any of them (will no longer meet as the 10 vs the 42).
 - The morning will be general business, and after lunch the meeting will be divided by whatever issue is being discussed at this meeting.
 - The non-MRS counties will be invited, but due to space limitations will ask them to limit attendance to 2 people per county.
 - They will be asked to hold their questions and they will be addressed at the last hour of the breakout.
- If anyone has any ideas about the next 52 meeting, let Tony know.
- Meetings will go back to the 10-3 time frame and the next three meeting dates have been set (will all be in Wilson):
 - Wednesday, January 12th
 - Tuesday, February 15th
 - Thursday, April 14th